United States District Court Southern District of Texas

ENTERED

March 28, 2025
Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

ORDER ADOPTING MEMORANDUM AND RECOMMENDATION

Before the Court is Magistrate Judge Jason Libby's Memorandum and Recommendation ("M&R"). (D.E. 11). The M&R recommends that the Court dismiss Plaintiff's claims with prejudice as frivolous and/or for failure to state a claim. *Id.* at 1. Plaintiff has filed written objections to the M&R. (D.E. 14).

When a party objects to the findings and recommendations of a magistrate judge, the district judge "shall make a de novo determination of those portions of the report or specified proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made." 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C). A party must point out with particularity any alleged errors in the M&R's analysis. *Pelko v. Perales*, No. 2:23-CV-00339, 2024 WL 1972896, at *1 (S.D. Tex. May 3, 2024) (Ramos, J.). Objections that merely re-urge arguments contained in the original briefing are not proper and will not be considered. *Edmond v. Collins*, 8 F.3d 290, 293 n.7 (5th Cir. 1993). Moreover, "[f]rivolous, conclusive or general objections need not be considered by the district court." *Nettles v. Wainwright*, 677 F.2d 404, 410 n.8 (5th Cir. 1982) (en banc) (*overruled on other grounds by Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1416 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc)) (*superseded by statute on other grounds*, 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)).

As to any portion for which no objection is filed, a district court reviews for clearly

erroneous factual findings and conclusions of law. *United States v. Wilson*, 864 F.2d 1219, 1221 (5th Cir. 1989) (per curiam).

Plaintiff's objections largely recount arguments considered by Magistrate Judge Libby. See (D.E. 14, p. 2–8); (D.E. 11, p. 2–8). However, Plaintiff does specifically object to the M&R's application of *Heck v. Humphrey*. *Id.* at 6. The M&R recommends dismissal of Plaintiff's claims under Heck v. Humphrey, 512 U.S. 477 (1994). (D.E. 11, p. 6). The M&R explained that because Plaintiff seeks money damages relating to his 2022 Nueces County conviction, Heck bars those claims until a court "has reversed or otherwise invalidated" that conviction. *Id.* at 5 (citing *Heck*, 512 U.S. at 587). Because no court has done so, the M&R recommends the Court find that Heck bars Plaintiff's claims. *Id.* at 5–6. Plaintiff objects to this conclusion on the grounds that his claims have "nothing to do with challenging his current single Count #1 of intoxication manslaughter[.]" (D.E. 14, p. 6). Rather, Plaintiff argues that he is asserting civil rights violations relating to "being indicted and convicted/sentenced to the Count #2 manslaughter charge . . . befor[e] it was dismissed." Id. Even assuming Plaintiff is correct that he was convicted of this count, and it was then later dismissed, he still cannot avoid Heck's bar because the fact that the count was dismissed does not prove that a court has reversed or otherwise invalidated that conviction. See Heck, 512 U.S. at 486–87 (explaining that sentence must be invalidated by court in order to proceed with 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claim). Accordingly, the Court **OVERRULES** Plaintiff's objection. (D.E. 14, p. 6).

Even if the Court were to sustain Plaintiff's objection, the objection does not dispute the M&R's alternative grounds for dismissal. (D.E. 11, p. 6–7). The M&R alternatively recommended dismissal of Plaintiff's claims under the doctrine of judicial immunity and for failure to state a claim. *Id.* Those grounds for dismissal persist whether or not *Heck* properly applies to bar Plaintiff's claims.

Having reviewed the proposed findings and conclusions of the M&R, the record, the applicable law, and having made a de novo review of the portions of the M&R to which Plaintiff's objections are directed, 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C), the Court **OVERRULES** Plaintiff's objections, (D.E. 14), and **ADOPTS** the findings and conclusions of the M&R, (D.E. 11). Accordingly, the Court **DISMISSES** Plaintiff's claims **with prejudice**. (D.E. 1). The Court **ORDERS** the Clerk of Court to send notice of this dismissal to the Manager of the Three Strikes List for the Southern District of Texas at Three_Strikes@txs.uscourts.gov. The Court will enter a final judgment separately.

SO ORDERED.

DAVID'S. MORALES

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Signed: Corpus Christi, Texas March 28, 2025